

# EDITORIALS

## It's That Time Again

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Oh, sure—there's still time enough. The stores aren't jam-packed with pushing, weary shoppers—yet. And the parking problem hasn't reached its nerve-wracking, temper-inflaming crisis—yet. And the stores are loaded with full and fresh stocks of everything you can think of to give to anybody.

But the days seem to flit by faster and faster, at this time of year, as they get shorter and shorter. November is gone. Once into December—what with the holiday visiting and fun and parties—gift shopping becomes less of a pleasure and more of a chore.

And then—that last minute frenzy, for the Christmas tree you'd forgotten to order, for the holly wreath, for the gifts you had overlooked in making out your list.

Remember how it was last year? Better get started!

## A Plea for Help

A threat to life in our community places a personal responsibility on each of us.

During the coming week, our fire fighters are taking the lead in an appeal to remind Torrance residents of the ravages of muscular dystrophy, a crippling and fatal disease. On their own time, and at considerable sacrifice of their scant leisure, these men are doing all they can to acquaint us with the deadliness of this baffling scourge.

For the more than 200,000 known victims of muscular dystrophy, there is as yet neither cure nor effective treatment. More than two thirds of the afflicted are children, doomed to die before maturity unless medical science finds the answer in time. If hopes raised by recent research are sustained, many of these lives may yet be spared. But before the enigma of this fatal, muscle-wasting disease is solved, our scientists face a long road of patient and expensive study.

All this and more your tireless fire fighter will explain when he rings your doorbell to collect a contribution envelope you will have received earlier in the mail. He will be doing more than his part; he is asking that you help.

## A Heart to God

The week of November 28 to December 5 has been set aside to salute one of America's most highly respected religious and charitable organizations, the Salvation Army.

Seventy-five years ago a small band of seven women officers and one man landed in New York City to plant the flag of The Salvation Army and to "claim America for God."

Though hardships, ridicule, and abuse were everyday occurrences to them, they proceeded with courage and determination in the task which they had set for themselves. Within a few years, they had established centers of operation across the nation.

Today, in the length and breadth of the United States, The Salvation Army daily carries on its mission "with Heart to God and Hand to Man." In its open air cathedrals, it disseminates Christian truth, often providing a church for those who have no church. Its work in this area in rebuilding the lives of the homeless through the simple therapy of providing work and food is well known to most.

Each year the Salvation Army provides such rehabilitation to thousands of men.

The observance of Salvation Army Week is a fitting way for Americans everywhere to say "A Job Well Done."

## Experiment and Discovery

The Outlook, published in Golden, Colorado, tells of a chemist who some years ago planned an experiment in religion. He said: "I am going to apply the scientific method to religion. I am going to go to church and see if it makes any difference in my life. By experiment and research I will study the findings of other men in that field. I will determine what has been proved and what is unknown."

You can hardly judge the impact of religion on the basis of one visit to church. But a few months of faithful attendance and many thoughtful evenings may give you a clear understanding of what others have found in religion. You may discover spiritual truths which centuries of experiences have proved. The fine churches of all denominations in the Greater Torrance area afford many persons an opportunity to make an experiment that may change the course of their lives.

## You Here Already, Santa?



## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

The case of Major Irving Peress will be with us long after the censure action of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Already this case has cost the taxpayers of the nation over \$1,000,000 in investigations and hearings, and another \$500,000 in congressional sessions. It has been responsible for bringing to a standstill congressional investigations of Communist infiltration in government and the army. It has split the Republican party wide open. It has retarded the President's legislative program to an alarming degree.

It will probably take the steam out of the most aggressive Communist investigator in modern times, Senator McCarthy. It brought the dismissal of Cohen and shook up the whole subcommittee personnel. It may cost the Republicans the 1956 campaign. All of this because of an obscure dentist, Dr. Irving Peress, who invoked the Fifth amendment on his army application and before a senate committee, and who later was given an honorable discharge by the U. S. army.

The case of Dr. Peress is explosive case of Dr. Peress long before Senator McCarthy. In typical army fashion it tried to bury it. The case of Peress is so involved in secrecy, deceit and army negligence that the full story may never be told. To save the army from national rebuke, President Eisenhower, the attorney general, congressional leaders in both parties exerted unprecedented pressure to stop the McCarthy investigation on the case of Peress. Falling in this, they gave approval to the army to take on McCarthy's challenge. Army hearings the key reason was Peress, not Schine. What brought the present censure hearings is the case of Zwicker-Peress. It is an effort to punish McCarthy for his refusal to drop the case of Peress. The rest is mere window dressing to discredit him before the nation. Peress had become a symbol of army negligence which McCarthy was determined to expose. Here's the inside story:

The Army-Peress Case An obscure dentist in uptown New York City, Dr. Irving Peress was called by the army in October, 1952, under the doctors' draft law and commissioned as an army reserve captain. Peress tried desperately to avoid the draft. He told his examining officer that a captain's salary would not pay his family's bills. He was bitter when they drafted him. He received two routine forms to fill out—one for his personal history and one a "loyalty form." On this loyalty form he was required to answer a list of five questions about subversive affiliations. He answered none, but wrote across all the questions in his left hand the words: "Federal Constitutional privilege," meaning that he was invoking the Fifth amendment. His papers went through regular army channels, but no one noticed his failure to answer

the questions or the irregularity of his notation. Peress was sworn in and sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for active duty.

Suddenly, in February, 1953, someone in the army finally discovered Peress' loyalty form notation and ordered an investigation of both Peress and army negligence in passing him. Army investigation wheels turn slowly. Finally in June, 1953, a report on Peress reached the First Army headquarters in New York. It was of such serious nature that his separation from the army was ordered at once. The file was then sent to the Army Personnel board in the Pentagon who wrote to Peress for additional information on his Communist affiliations. Peress again invoked the Fifth amendment and refused to reply. His file got buried or held out in the Pentagon by someone, but in the meantime, in October, 1953, Peress was promoted to major under a routine classification. It is incredible that while one branch of the army recommends immediate dismissal, another branch issues a promotion. That it was not just a routine mistake is evidenced by the fact that the promotion was fully inscribed on the file which carried the recommendation that he be separated from the army for "serious reasons."

It is now December, 1953, and the Army Personnel board issued another stronger recommendation that Major Peress be separated from the army at once. The army considered Peress a bad risk because of his contacts with enlisted men. But how was this to be done? He did nothing but invoke the Fifth amendment, and that is his Constitutional privilege under the law. He could not be court-martialed. The only two courses left at this late stage of the game were to give Peress a "less than honorable" discharge, which Peress could hold up for a year and probably win his case. The other and easier course was to give him an "honorable" discharge and that's what the army did, to take effect within 90 days. McCarthy Enters Peress Case It was at this stage of the Peress case that Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigators uncovered information involving Peress, through a Communist informant in New York. Senator McCarthy called Major Peress to testify. In a closed session Major Peress refused to answer any questions pertaining to his Communist affiliations and again invoked the Fifth amendment some 32 times during the interrogation. It was at this point that Senator McCarthy wrote the army, voicing his objection on granting Major Peress an honorable discharge. The army ignored it and the feud between McCarthy and the army was now on in full force. Peress, realizing the possibility of his discharge with "less than honorable," requested an immediate separation, which is his prerogative under army procedure, instead of waiting the 90 days to expire. He had become such

## The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNBY

In case you are interested, a Plymouth, Mass., cordage company has sent me a special notice of a reduction in the price of its baler and binder twine. Guess they haven't heard that I'm a city feller now.

Crews from the parking meter company hit town yesterday and started measuring the streets for the new look. The installation of parking meters should provide the squirrel keeper with a few chuckles during the next few months, so keep tuned in. The first one came at the City Council meeting here Tuesday evening when Councilman Willis G. Blount suggested that his colleague, Victor E. Benstead Jr., pose for photographers putting the first nickel in a meter. Benstead declined—he has been the most steadfast opponent of the meters here and has voted against all phases of the new plan.

Here's a report straight from the kitchen: My chief cook and bottle washer at home notified me that the Wednesday night menu at our casa included generous helpings of turkey croquettes—which anybody knows is the final gasp for the Thanksgiving turkey. How long did yours last?

Follow me know was on the witness stand in a civil action downtown last week when the opposing attorney kept talking louder and louder and finally asked the witness how loud one of the principals in the case was talking when he addressed some remarks to others involved. The witness calmly replied: "About twice as loud as you're talking, sir."

When the judge was able to rap the court back to order, the case continued without further mention of loud talk.

Busiest man in town these days is apparently the insurance broker we saw on Cabrillo Ave. the other day. He had a couple of impressive account books spread out on the hood of his automobile and was busy making entries in them, oblivious to the whizzing traffic fanning his coat tails as it buzzed down the heavily traveled thoroughfare.

Clipped: The Boston Globe has decided that the worst part about the weekly grocery bill is watching the callous speed with which the supermarket cashier rings it up. A youthful figure is what you get when you ask an older woman for her age. A psychologist is a person who uses 52 words to explain a failure caused by laziness.

## THE MAIL BOX

### Dormant Thoughts

Torrance Herald Mr. Robert B. Martin's article in the HERALD aroused dormant thoughts. I met J. L. Lewis in Canada in 1914. He was the IWW and he had a lot to learn then. I was studying to become a mine manager—had one more year to go (then finished). I was a missionary at the time I met Mr. J. L. Lewis, miners were on strikes there (lots of trouble). Thank you for the article. REV. JAMES LITTLE 930 Arlington Ave.

## OF ALL THINGS

By Robert B. Martin

A lot of us are beginning to play-down the dangers of Communism. Some of our Commie-fighters are taking it on the chin—publicly and privately.

Those who are speaking against Communism are being called fanatics, fascists, maniacs, etc.

And the tragedy of it all is that it's a part of a well-laid plan... playing down home-front danger, thanks to Red propaganda.

It happened to Guatemala, you might recall.

Guatemala, prior to 1944, had been ruled for years by dictators. Some good, some ruthless. There were so many that the people began taking on an indifferent attitude. This is where the Reds stepped in.

Guatemala, with its three million people, could be a sort of Red beachhead in the Western Hemisphere.

Jorge Ubico in 1944, was pushed out of office by a gang of students. Army officers, businessmen... and the "progressive" intellectuals. Gen. Federico Ponce Valdes was installed as provisional president... and before they knew it he was taking more than his share of the cake.

Another revolution... and a Junta was set up. Maj. Francisco Javier Arana and Capt. Jacobo Arnez Guzman, both Army officers, and a civilian, Jorge Toriello, were the leaders.

But what no one knew was that since the fall of Ubico, the Comrades had been working on the younger set... students whose political philosophies had not as yet crystallized.

With some persuasion, it developed that a professor named Juan Jose Arvalo, who was a great follower of "spiritual socialism," would be nominated for the Presidency by the revolutionary parties. He made it... and it was only then that it dawned on everyone that Arvalo was a Communist.

He brought Red agitators from all over Latin America to Guatemala. With professional ease they talked the young Guatemalans into forming Communist cells. They even assigned a woman, Virginia Bravo Leiller, to reorganize the Guatemalan education system. The labor movement was put in charge of Vicente Lombardo Toledano. Guatemala was in its way toward becoming fully-Red.

With the coming of election time in 1949, it was pointed out that according to the Guatemalan Constitution, President Arvalo could not succeed himself. They selected as his successor Col. Arbenz. His main opponent was the Chief of Staff of the Guatemalan Army, Col. Arana... who, it so happened, was a vigorous anti-Red.

But the election was never held. Arana was machine-gunned and Arbenz took office. The people of Guatemala lived under Communist rule for 10 years. They found what it is first hand... and when Col. Castillo Armas invaded Guatemala last June 18, resistance crumbled. The people were fed up with Communism.

And one thing is certain... they'll never forget what it means to be indifferent.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald

Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Monday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

1619 Gramercy Ave. FA 8-4000



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GLENN W. PFEIL, General Manager  
REID L. BUNBY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 218470, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION  
Subscription Rates: By Carrier, 30c a Month. Mail Subscriptions \$3.00 per year. Circulation office FAtrax 8-6044.

## IT'S A FACT

By JERRY CAHILL



THE DRUM BUG!  
THE CAPE HILL  
"I'VE DONE EVERYTHING  
I CAN TO MAKE IT CALL NOTES LAUNDER!"

SIR THOMAS STAMFORD RAFFLES— (1781-1824)  
SINGAPORE ALREADY ESTABLISHED  
TO BE THE DUTCH TRADE MONOPOLY  
IN THE EAST—AND MET WITH  
BRITISH OPPOSITION FOR YEARS!  
AFTER HIS DEATH (ON HIS BIRTHDAY)  
HE WISHED HIS PROPERTY TO GO  
10,000 POUNDS FOR EXPENSES HE INCURRED  
IN FOUNDING SINGAPORE!

THE UNIVERSITY—  
LEGALLY A PART OF ANSTON  
CANNOT BE TAKEN BY NATION  
BECAUSE IT IS A STATE  
INSTITUTION!



NOW WHERE CAN YOU GET  
THE NEXT ISSUE

It's in the cards  
Today's Magic Key  
A 5x5 grid of playing cards with letters and numbers. Below the grid is a list of names: T K L A I A O N N D, V A K N E W E E C S, M S A A O I L I T R, E S L E S D T G Y, O I I U F M N U T E.

1955 CHRISTMAS CLUB  
Start to prepay next Christmas now!  
Now Open  
50¢ weekly = \$25.00  
\$1.00 weekly = \$50.00  
\$2.00 weekly = \$100.00  
\$3.00 weekly = \$250.00  
\$5.00 weekly = \$500.00  
Plus interest  
California Bank  
Torrance Office, 1329 Sartori Ave. Arthur O. Ottes, Vice-President  
GIVE TO YOUR COMMUNITY CHEST